North Shore Radio Association News

FALL 2009

Editors: Kathy (KB1LPW) & Rick (KB1LYJ) Savage

www.nsradio.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3724
Peabody, MA 01961-3724

Established: 1964

member

Meetings: Third Monday of the Month (September to June) at 7:30 P.M, at the South Congregational Church, 60 Prospect Street, Peabody, MA (talk-in 145.470/R)
Weekly club NET: Sundays at 20:30 (8:30 P.M.) on the 145.470MHz PL of 136.5 Danvers Repeater

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(all emails: Callsign@nsradio.org)

President:
Mark Caron
N1UGM

Vice President:
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KB1LYJ

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KA1NCF

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W1KVQ

Membership:
Eric Horwitz
KA1NCF

Club Trustee:
Lou Harris
N1UEC

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WELCOME A NEW ARRIVAL…

On September 27th Eric, Beth and Abigail Horwitz welcomed to their family a healthy 6 pound 3 ounce and 18 inches long, Mathew Jesse. Baby photos can be seen on their website www.ericandbeth.org/mathew. Congratulations from everyone at NSRA to the new parents!!

SALEM HOSPITAL SITE SUMMER WORK…

This summer, the tech committee had the opportunity to visit the Salem Hospital Repeater site to prepare for some new work.

When we got there, it was apparent that significant construction work had commenced and no one had taken the care necessary to handle the radio room and associated equipment with any forethought. The equipment was squeezed wherever it would barely fit and what could not be moved, was built around. I personally found this appalling and made an effort to correct the situation. The new work would have to wait.

After several meetings, I eventually was put in touch with the right people at the hospital, who, not only apologized, but made it possible for the NSRA technical committee to get more directly involved in the facilities at the hospital.

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(Salem Hospital Site - Continued from page 1)

It was decided that the NSRA tech committee members would be permitted to volunteer their services to straighten out the mess created by over 15 years of neglect and several months of complete denial.

A group was formed to go up and cleanout all the dormant infrastructure, remove the disconnected equipment and reorganize the room. 3 visits, and about 60 man hours later the room is again presentable, all the equipment has known trustees and the antennae are all properly grounded and mapped.

The tech committee could not have done this without the many volunteers, many of whom were not members of the NSRA, who performed a large amount of dirty hard work. Most of the work would only benefit the Hospital, however, as we are not required to pay for electricity or rent and we have been there since the 80's , it's a small price to pay.

The results of the work that will directly benefit and expand the capabilities of the club are the following:

146.88: The 1/2 " hardline that was in use for 146.88 for at least the last 12 years and was not new at that time was replaced with some 7/8" hardline that came from the Danvers water tank. Approximately 135' of LDF5-50A was run to accommodate the 146.88 repeater. New connectors, a new jumper, and a new polyphaser was installed.

446.625: A new machine was installed at the site that was cobbled together from spare parts in the shop. This machine is running at about 20 watts and the receiver needs some help. This machine is utilizing an abandoned UHF antenna. We may or may not attend to this as needed. Operating details, 446.625 – offset, pl 88.5

927.750: A new machine was installed at the site. This was the reason for all the work. This is an MSF5000 commercial, continuous duty, 125 Watt repeater. New 7/8" hardline was run and a new antenna installed for this machine. The antenna is a commercial 10dB gain antenna and the hardline run is about 75'. The machine is strong enough to be heard here in Walpole!

Additionally, we have made some very good friends at the Hospital both with our professionalism and our quality of work. Below are some photos of the before and after.

Lou - N1UEC

More Photos from Salem Hospital site…

Ambulance build around

Dead unit

US and TV Rack

NORTH SHORE ARES/SKYWARN UPDATE...

The North Shore SKYWARN Coordinators and Net Control stations would like to thank everyone for their efforts throughout the summer of 2009. While not nearly as busy as 2008, we proved that once again we stand ready to support the mission of the National Weather Service: to protect life and property. Each report that is received that either verifies a warning or helps to justify a new warning further proves our importance to the world of weather spotting.

Speaking of weather, the tenth annual "Southern New England Weather Conference" is a few weeks away. This conference is packed with information for everyone from the weather enthusiast to the local meteorologist, and everyone in between. Catch a presentation on the Ice Storm of 2008, a review of operations at the WX4NHC – the National Hurricane Center amateur radio station, the all important winter weather forecast, and even stay for dinner. All details can be found at http://www.sneweatherconf.org. Be sure to register as soon as possible!

On the ARES front, the North Shore ARES leadership would like to thank all operators that participated in our annual statewide hurricane exercise back in June. As always, we hope several lessons were learned by all involved in yet another successful exercise – thanks again! IF there is interest in hosting our own exercises or North Shore ARES Net, please let us know so we can consider it for our schedule.

As always, anyone interested in joining the North Shore ARES/SKYWARN Team should contact either myself or Eric Horwitz - KA1NCF, North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator, for more information. We need your help, and are always looking for Net Controls, home stations, simplex relays, and more. Everyone has a talent to bring to the table, let's bring all our skills together and continue to provide one of the best ARES teams in the section!

Jim Palmer – KB1KQW
Eastern MA Asst. Section Emergency Coordinator
North Shore MA Asst. SKYWARN Coordinator

OUT and About with Al, W1DUW...

Twice a year, in early January and in early July an invitation is given to Club Presidents and ARRL Section Managers and any member can attend, as a guest, by New England Division Director, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, who is also on the ARRL Executive Committee. Vice Director, Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF also attends, so the information is current. The meetings are usually in the Springfield, MA area in January, at a hotel, and the July meeting, usually in southern Vermont or New Hampshire. These so called cabinet meeting or mini board meeting are held just before the ARRL, twice a year, Board of Directors meeting by a week or two.

It has been a pleasure, for me to attend, after President Mark Caron has invited me to represent the NSRA. These meetings are informative, interesting and a fine way to meet others, they may be Club Presidents, Section Managers, Past Presidents, etc. but most important they are other Amateurs from the New England states and a great friendly get together for a few hours. I would like to review the most recent meeting which took place on June 13th of this year, held a little earlier than usual. We met at the Highland Inn and Conference Center at the Manchester, New Hampshire Airport. After the usual coffee and donuts Tom Frenaye went over the issues and concerns of the ARRL up to the current time. Following are a few highlights, which were discussed.

Broadband over power lines, Tom pointed out old technology now, and not a threat that it was a few years ago. A year ago the ARRL won an appeal of the FCC ruling two years ago that BPL did not cause any real problems to Ham radio, when in fact studies showed that BPL did. The Court of Appeals had sent the ruling back to the FCC for review and action. As of July the FCC had taken no action on this, and as Tom F. pointed out the FCC was in disarray and was not doing much in any area, seems politics was a big player, and caused lot of frustration. Seems BPL won't be a big problem, as it has not caught on in the market place due to the fact BPL does not have the bandwidth demanded by most customers.

Other area discussed was the number of new hams, renewed hams and how growth plays out, or lack of growth, by each yearly quarter. New areas of growth in digital communications and frequency allocations are what many new hams want. Tom went over these things, and ways to keep new hams in the hobby and "on the air". As the meeting progresses, Local ARES activities are gone over and EMA section manager Rob Macedo KD1CY gives a timely report. FEMA regional working group and interoperability are discussed. Dennis K2DCD ARRL manager for emergency preparedness and response, gave a great report and talk on this subject, and his role at Headquarters in Newington, CT. Training and preparedness are key to Amateur radio and was stressed in every area of discussion.

The meeting broke for a very nice Fifteen dollar luncheon, cost to cover the meal cost, only. In the afternoon more discussion and enthusiastic debate and ideas. Before the meeting ended in mid afternoon Tom Frenaye and Mike Raisbeck hold a small auction with ARRL books and other ham related items, brought by Tom, from headquarters, the proceeds are donated to the Education Fund of the ARRL we all get a chance at some real good deals.

The meeting is a way for Tom K1KI to get feedback and a sense of what hams in New England area are thinking about, and a big help when he attends the ARRL board meeting. This past July (thirty-five) hams attended with an additional(thirteen) who were not able to attend, due to other commitments.

If any member would like more information on subjects above, or additional information, please see me at the monthly meeting, I would enjoy discussing this with you.

Best 73's
Alfred Prudhomme, Jr. W1DUW

DUES ARE DUE…

Membership renewal notices have been sent out and dues for the 2009-2010 are now due. Payment may be sent to:
NSRA Memberships,
PO BOX 3724
PEABODY MA 01961-3724

or pay online add $1.00 & use PayPal Link on the Membership Info tab.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN CHANGES…

Due to increased family responsibilities, Eric KA1NCF has re-assigned some of his club duties to others. Mark Caron, N1UGM has taken over the membership duties that include maintain the membership list, sending out renewal notices, collecting membership fees and updating new member information. Kathy, KB1LPW and Rick KB1LYJ Savage will be taking care of making new member badges.

Welcome New Members…

Since our September meeting we welcome the following members to the club:

Mike Coffey, KB1EZL from Saugus
Brian F. Shea, KB1SZZ from Peabody

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS…

Exams are being held on the fourth Saturday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at the Danvers Central Fire Station on High Street. E-mail our Exam Session Coordinator W1DFL at nsradio dot org or W1ZT at nsradio dot org for information (no links to prevent spam).

Upcoming NSRA Exam Dates:

October 24, 2009
November 28, 2009
December 26, 2009

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS ARES ORGANIZATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT…

Hello to all....

For continued growth in an organization, changes are needed to create depth and further growth and to establish leadership succession and support for existing leadership when unavailable. Several individuals within the Eastern Massachusetts ARES program have provided robust support of the program and have been doing work above and beyond their responsibility. In addition, other individuals within the program are doing an excellent job within their role and we recognize their contributions within the Eastern Massachusetts ARES program and the fact that they will continue in their roles working together with others within the Eastern Massachusetts ARES program that will have an increased role within the program. We also realize that none of this would be possible without the ARES members, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators and Assistant District Emergency Coordinators who work hard to support the program. To support the organization going forward, the following organizational changes will be made effective immediately.

Carl Aveni-N1FY will be moved into the role of Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Through his working relationship with the Bridgewater EMA Director, Herb Lemon-KC1ZW, Eastern Massachusetts ARES has had full access to the town of Bridgewater EOC to be utilized as a net control center for drills, ARES/storm activations, and other events such as the Democratic National Convention in 2004 and the Operation Atlas Drill in 2005. Carl has been working on projects involving area hospitals and has also been a tremendous supporter of operations at the National Weather Service in Taunton and has

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been a main alternate contact for NWS Taunton operations. He has also built a solid South Shore ARES program with the assistance of several ARES Emergency Coordinators and assistants. Carl has recently retired after over 30 years with the Brockton VA Hospital and has devoted much of his spare time to projects within Eastern Massachusetts ARES as well as the Eastern Massachusetts section staff. We are very appreciative to Carl for accepting this new role.

Jim Palmer-KB1KQW will also be moved into the role of Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Jim Palmer is a younger Amateur who has done a superb job in his role assisting Eric Horwitz-KA1NCF with North Shore ARES and assisting the NWS Taunton and Gray Maine SKYWARN programs. In addition, Jim served as the ARESMAT Coordinator for the Gardner ARESMAT during the major ice storm of December 11th-12th 2008 and supported operations from the Massachusetts State EOC during the recovery phase of the ice storm. Jim brings youth and enthusiasm to the program and has assisted me in many ways and both the ARES and SKYWARN programs would not be where they are without his assistance not only to Eric-KA1NCF but to myself as well and we are glad that Jim has accepted this position.

Eric Horwitz-KA1NCF will continue in his role as North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator (DEC). As many folks across the section and in particular the North Shore are aware, Eric and Jim have had a very good working relationship over the years. This organizational move reflects the strength of this working relationship in that Eric was willing to have Jim accept this role when I asked and Jim will act much in the way some managers do in professional circles where he will continue to work under Eric on North Shore ARES matters but assist the section when the SEC is unavailable and at my direction when needed and Eric will support Jim in that capacity when needed. This is no way a bad reflection on Eric and his leadership but an understanding of what Eric has to balance from a personal/family/career versus volunteer work perspective. In addition, this is much in the way Mike Neilsen and I have operated with Mike as Section Manager and myself as SEC. Many times Mike has acted in a capacity where I was in the lead and the opposite has been true in other matters. The plan is for a similar relationship to exist with Jim in his Assistant SEC role and Eric continuing in his North Shore ARES DEC role and I am thankful to both of them for their support and allowing this arrangement to take place as it is very much needed to grow the organization and to allow us to sustain the momentum of our program..

Phil McNamara-N1XTB has accepted the role of South Shore ARES DEC covering much of Southeast Massachusetts. Phil has been working very hard with Carl to build the South Shore ARES program and to also be a liaison to the various military branches of the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS). Phil has also been the key provider and technologist of our Eastern Massachusetts ARES database that was used significantly during the Ice Storm ARESMAT and to track the growth and sustainability of our program and the resources that Eastern Massachusetts ARES has as a section and we are working to expand this to be a complete EMCOMM database that involves all interested parties and programs. Phil has also been working with several towns and groups in Southeast Massachusetts including Plymouth, Duxbury, Carver and Middleboro to establish Amateur Radio support in these areas. Clearly, Phil has stepped up to perform a role that is more like an ARES DEC versus his current EC role and Phil has graciously accepted to step up and perform this duty for our section.

Frank O'Laughlin-WQ1O is continuing in his role as Cape Cod and Islands ARES District Emergency Coordinator and remains a critical part of our organization. Frank has seen a significant expansion to his program with several Amateur Radio classes done resulting in many new Amateurs on Cape Cod and right after

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those Amateur Radio classes have taken place, Frank has led Amateur Radio EMCOMM classes for those new Amateurs. Frank recently conducted a Cape Cod ARES cold weather drill in January and continues the weekly Cape Cod ARES Net on the 146.955 MHz Barnstable Repeater. Frank O'Laughlin and Dan Howard-K1DYO also assisted the Massachusetts State EOC operations in the recovery phase of the December Ice Storm. We will continue to work closely with Frank in his role in the Eastern Massachusetts ARES program.

Steve Telsey-N1BDA is continuing in his role as Middlesex County ARES District Emergency Coordinator. Steve also continues his role as managing the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Net that meets on the first Monday of each month (except for first Monday of the month holidays). Steve has assisted with activities for the Northern Middlesex County ARES group and has supported getting CERT members their Amateur Radio license across areas bordering the metro Boston area. Steve also supported Massachusetts State EOC operations during the recovery phase of the December Ice Storm as well.

Steve Schwarm-W3EVE is continuing in his role as Field Operations DEC and assisting with Norfolk County as required. Steve has also supported operations during the recovery phase of the December Ice Storm and also supported Hurricane Matt drill operations from NWS Taunton in August of 2008. Steve is still a resource that is available to support Eastern Massachusetts ARES as required.

Blake Haskell-K1BTH is continuing in his role as Metro Boston ARES DEC. Blake, who has recovered from some illnesses, continues to work with various agencies in the Boston area including Boston Emergency Management and the Strategic National Stockpile as well as a few hospitals in the Metro Boston area. Blake will be continuing to grow these relationships and will work to add more depth to the Metro Boston ARES organization now that he has recovered from his illnesses.

Mark Duff-KB1EKN is continuing in his role as Public Safety Liaison DEC. Mark has been assisting the Eastern Massachusetts ARES staff in this advisory role to give us a perspective on the public safety side of what is happening and how it could affect the Amateur Radio community given his role as Fire Chief of the town of Hingham. He also advises the staff of organizational changes on the public safety side and any impact on the Amateur Radio community and advises if any cities or towns are interested in support from the Amateur Radio community so we can involve appropriate folks from both RACES and ARES to support those areas.

We have a number of ARES Emergency Coordinators and Assistant District Emergency Coordinators who will continue in their roles as well. We would not be successful without these individuals and we appreciate all of their efforts as well. If additional individuals would like to step up in these roles, please contact the ARES DEC, our new Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators or myself for assistance. We also have a few folks that we've identified for some of these roles that we will be working with over the next few weeks.

We also have over 400 ARES members across our section. Without all of you, none of the leadership organizational changes that we have made would matter, as it's all of you that help us be successful and make a difference. We appreciate all of your support of Eastern Massachusetts ARES and the NWS Taunton SKYWARN program and look forward to continue to work with you and support all of you in making Eastern Massachusetts ARES the best it can be.

Finally, I would like to encourage new folks that are interested in Eastern Massachusetts ARES to please fill out the ARES Registration Form off of our Eastern Massachusetts ARES web site and contact your local EC, DEC, ASEC or SEC with questions or assistance on the program. For existing ARES members that

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are in the database, I encourage you to login and make sure your contact information is updated and that you create a training record to track your training and list any equipment resources you have available. A link to both the Eastern Massachusetts ARES web site and the Eastern Massachusetts ARES registration form and database are listed below:

Eastern Massachusetts ARES Registration Form and Database: https://secure.ema.arrl.org/ares/ARES_about

Eastern Massachusetts ARES Web Site:
http://ares.ema.arrl.org/

Thanks to all of you for your support of Eastern Massachusetts ARES. We hope these organizational changes will recruit more Amateurs to get involved with ARES and SKYWARN and provide the leadership growth, succession and depth required to continue to the strengthen the program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)
ARES SKYWARN Coordinator
Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator

PUBLIC SERVICE…

The 2009 season is winding down, below are the Public Service Events that we have left. Check the web site for updated listings,
If you are interested in helping out, please contact eventnsra at nsradio dot org

DATE	EVENT	EVENT INFORMATION
Weekend, October 16th	Head of the Charles Regatta, Cambridge, MA	Heather Arnold [lg1hocr@gmail.com]
Sunday, November TBD	Santa Claus Parade	Parade in Town

NSRA Repeaters

NSRA Repeaters

- All the following repeaters has the club callsign of **NS1RA**
  - **145.470- Danvers (PL of 136.5) (Echolink-IRLP)**
  - **146.880- Salem, (PL of 118.8)**
  - **223.880- Danvers (PL of 136.5)**
  - **442.800+ Danvers (PL of 136.5)**
  - **446.625- Salem (PL of 88.5)**
  - **53.850- Danvers (PL of 71.9)**

Digipeaters

144.390 in Danvers, **APRS Digipeater-IP-Gate** Call of NS1RA-3

Repeater Status—as of 9-22-09

145.470 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL - PL REQUIRED *ON SPLIT ANTENNAS - REDUCED COVERAGE IS POSSIBLE***
146.880 (-)	PL 118.8	Salem	OPERATIONAL
223.880 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
442.800 (+)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL - NO FUNCTIONS
446.625 (-)	PL 88.5	Salem	OPERATIONAL
53.850 (-)	PL 71.9	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
927.750 (-)	PL 131.8	Salem	OPERATIONAL
144.390		Danvers APRS I-Gate	OPERATIONAL
EchoIRLP	#4427	On 145.47 R	OPERATIONAL

Please direct any questions to tech at nsradio dot org. Thanks!

From the Editors…

If you like what you see, or feel something is missing & you would like to contribute (ideas include: an informational article, cartoon or other ham related information) we would like to have your information/ input. The deadline for the Winter issue will be January 5th. Please send your information to KB1LPW and KBILYJ at newsletter at nsradio.org.

North Shore Radio Association Membership Application

Date: ___/___/___ __ New __ Renewal __ Update Info __ Donation
Call sign: _____ Class: _____ Year first licensed: _____
Name: _____ Name on air: _____ B-Day: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____-_____
Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____ ARRL #: _____
E-Mail address: _____ Web Page: _____
If on the Internet: __ Newsletter via Internet __ YourCall@nsradio.org mail Address
Your capabilities (bands, modes etc.): _____
Other hobbies & interests: _____
Referred by (if any): _____

Type of membership requested (check one):
___ Full ___ Student (full-time) ___ Associate (family member)
If Associate, Call sign of the Full member in your household: _____

Dues:
Full = $20 Student = $5 Associate = $5 **New members add $5 initiation**.
Partial Year: Sept. - Nov. = $20, Dec. - Feb. = $15, Mar. - May = $10,
June - Aug = $20 (Credited to next year's membership. (3 months free)
[New members will receive a personalized NSRA Club badge with their call and on-air name displayed.]
Amount enclosed: _____

Mail to: NSRA RENEWALS PO BOX 3724 PEABODY MA 01961-3724